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NOTE ON THE BINARY STARS β 208 AND β 524.

Two recent observations of the binary star β 208 made with the 36-inch telescope show that the angular motion of the companion-star has been fully 90° since 1898. The distance has diminished decidedly in the same interval. My measures give the following position:—

1905.18 $167^\circ.6$ $0''.30$ 2^h .

If, as now seems likely, the orbit is very eccentric, it will be possible in five or six years to compute a satisfactory orbit for this pair. The system is also of interest because of its large proper motion— $0''.48$ in the direction 328° .

The binary star $20\text{ Persei} = \beta$ 524 has for several years been a difficult object to measure, even with the 36-inch telescope. The apparent distance between the components is now increasing, and will probably continue to increase for a number of years, though its maximum value will not greatly exceed $0''.3$. As this pair belongs to the class of short-period binaries, the periodic time not being much more than thirty years, it deserves annual measures by observers having telescopes adequate to such work.

My last measures are:—

1904.83 $5^\circ.8$ $0''.16$ 2^h .

March 24, 1905.

R. G. AITKEN.

NOTE ON COMET c 1904.

Comet c 1904, discovered by M. BORRELLY on December 28, 1904, has proved to be an object worthy of more attention than was at first suspected, for it is traveling in an elliptic orbit, and hence is a member of the solar system, not a chance visitor.

This discovery was made by M. FAYET at Paris, and, independently, by the present writer. My orbit, based upon my observations of December 31, 1904, January 17, and January 27, 1905, gives a period of 7.3 years; M. FAYET's revised elements, derived from normal places representing the observations from December 30, 1904, to January 26, 1905, make the period a little shorter, 7.0 years.

In other respects the two orbits are very similar, and the

ephemerides to April 1st, computed from them, differ but little, either set being amply accurate for the observer's purpose.

An observation secured with the 36-inch on March 22, 1905, indicates a motion a very little more rapid than that predicted, and it is probable that a definitive discussion of the observations made at this apparition will give a period falling a little under seven years.

The comet is now too faint for good observations with a 12-inch telescope, and is not likely to be visible very much longer, even with the 36-inch.

R. G. AITKEN.

March 24, 1905.

INTERNATIONAL LATITUDE OBSERVATORY, UKIAH, CAL.

The programme of the International Geodetic Association for observing variations of latitude was continued throughout 1904 without modification or interruption. Good observing weather prevailed throughout the year, except during the months of February and March, when thirty-one inches of rain fell. Meteorological observations have been kept at Ukiah for twenty-seven years, and 1904 is the first year during that time in which a measurable amount of rain fell every month. The three longest intervals without observations were seven nights in April, fourteen nights in August and nine nights in October. The interval in August was caused by the absence of the observer from the observatory; those in April and October to a combination of unfavorable weather and the absence of the observer.

The following table gives a summary of the observations made for the variation of latitude. The second column gives the number of nights in each month on which observations were obtained. The last column gives the greatest interval each month during which no observations were obtained:—

1904.	Pairs.	Nights.	Nights.
January	242	16	4
February	114	10	4
March	122	10	5
April	182	13	7
May	239	15	6
June	197	15	5